

**Regular Session Minutes – Selectmen’s Meeting
Selectmen’s Meeting Room, Town Hall
Monday, February 8, 2016, 7:30 p.m.**

PRESENT: Mark Siegenthaler, Chair; William S. Moonan; Margot R. Fleischman; Caroline Fedele; Michael A. Rosenberg and Town Manager Richard T. Reed

ALSO PRESENT: Finance Director Victor Garofalo; Assistant Town Manager Michael Rosen; Planning Board member Jeff Cohen; Finance Committee member Ben Thomas; National Grid Permit Representative Dennis Regan; Bedford Cable Coordinator Ken Hill

Chair Siegenthaler called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

**16-191 Utility Hearing
 National Grid
 Short Street**

Ms. Fleischman made a motion to open the Utility Hearing. Ms. Fedele seconded the motion.

The motion passed 5-0-0.

National Grid Permit Representative Dennis Regan requested that the Selectmen approve the installation and maintenance of a gas main to a home on Short Street that is requesting gas service. The gas would come from an existing gas main on Pine Street westerly.

Mr. Moonan inquired who would pay for the extension. Mr. Regan stated it would be the customer.

Ms. Fleischman made a motion to close the Utility Hearing. Ms. Fedele seconded the motion.

The motion passed 5-0-0.

Mr. Rosenberg made a motion to approve the installation and maintenance of approximately 260 feet, more or less of 2 inch gas main on Short Street from the existing 2 inch gas main in Pine Street Westerly to House #2 for gas service. Mr. Moonan seconded the motion.

The motion passed 5-0-0.

16-192 2016 Annual Town Meeting Warrant
Review of Draft Warrant
Article Recommendations
Salary Plan Additional Funding Article
Other Articles

Town Manager Richard Reed presented the Selectmen with a new revision of the 2016 Annual Town Meeting Warrant. Mr. Reed stated that none of the articles had been voted on as of yet. He hoped the Selectmen would vote on some of the articles this evening. Mr. Reed also said that the Planning Board would be present at the next Selectmen's Meeting to discuss proposed Zoning Bylaw Amendments.

Town Counsel suggested an edit to Article 6-General Bylaw Amendment –Cable Television Committee. Under the section that pertains to the Committee's responsibilities, it states: "Receive information regarding the Town's cable television funds and make recommendations to the Selectmen concerning expenditures from those funds." Town Counsel proposed changing the first mention of the word "funds," to revenue. After further discussion, it was decided to keep the language as presented.

Next, the Selectmen discussed Article 18-Contingent Bond Authorization – Job Lane School Addition. Mr. Reed stated that the project at Lane School was to be funded with a bond authorization contingent upon a debt exclusion vote under Proposition 2 ½. The Finance Committee suggested funding the project without debt exclusion. They feel that the project cost can be absorbed by the bond and future tax levies.

Mr. Reed stated that the Town is committed to pay approximately \$570,000 to the Other Post-Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund (OPEB). Before the Town switched to the GIC plan in 2012, all health insurance was paid from the health claims trust. GIC has premiums sent directly to them. There is a balance of approximately \$700,000 in the health claim trust that must be used exclusively for health insurance related costs. The Finance Committee suggested using the \$700,000 in the health claim trust to fund OPEB. The tax levy of approximately \$570,000 that was raised for OPEB could be used toward the Lane School Expansion and thus eliminating the need for debt exclusion and reducing the amount to be borrowed. It was decided that the word "contingent," would be removed from Article 18 and that any language pertaining to debt exclusion would be omitted.

Chair Siegenthaler requested that the language in Article 15-Bedford Business Zoning Appropriation be more concise. Chair Siegenthaler felt that four italicized paragraphs were excessive.

Article 19-Proposed FY2017 Capital Projects Plan was discussed next. The Capital Expenditures Committee (CEC) recommended a project to replace the windows at the Bedford Free Library. It was assumed that Community Preservation would fund this project. However Community Preservation voted to not recommend this project. The project was then added to the Capital Plan by the CEC and the cost is \$72,800.

The last item on the Capital Projects Plan is to update the Town and Schools Communications System. The original cost for this project was \$1.5 million. This was reduced by \$195,000 by applying cable funds. Of that appropriation, \$125,000 came from an investment in the Town from Verizon. This \$125,000 is a capital investment in the Town's technology and information systems. The Cable Committee asked that the transfer of the \$125,000 be presented at Town Meeting. Mr. Reed concluded by saying that the amount of the project is \$1,473,860 which includes the \$125,000 to be transferred.

Next, the Selectmen discussed Article 26-Salary Plan Additional Funding. Mr. Reed referred to an additional memo regarding this article. Mr. Reed said that this increase would affect 89 employees. The funds would be appropriated through the Classification and Wage Schedule article. The overall increase is 3.29% with 2% being an economic adjustment and 1.29% as a performance factor.

The Selectmen made a decision on the funding of OPEB with regards to Article 27- Other Post-Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund Appropriation. The monies in the health claim trust fund would be used to fund OPEB. This is approximately \$700,000.

Mr. Rosenberg moved to recommend approval of Article 2- Debate Rules. Ms. Fleischman seconded the motion.

The motion passed 5-0-0.

Ms. Fleischman moved to recommend approval of Article 3- Consent Article. Mr. Rosenberg seconded the motion.

The motion passed 5-0-0.

Mr. Moonan moved to recommend approval of Article 4- Reauthorization of Revolving Funds. Mr. Rosenberg seconded the motion.

The motion passed 5-0-0.

Ms. Fleischman moved the Selectmen make a recommendation at Town Meeting for Article 5- Bills of Prior Years. Mr. Rosenberg seconded the motion.

The motion passed 5-0-0.

Mr. Moonan moved to recommend approval of Article 6- General Bylaw Amendment-Cable Television Committee. Mr. Rosenberg seconded the motion.

The motion passed 5-0-0.

Mr. Rosenberg moved to recommend approval of Article 16- Easement Acquisitions for Middlesex Turnpike and Great Road/Mudge Way Intersection. Ms. Fleischman seconded the motion.

The motion passed 5-0-0.

Ms. Fedele moved to recommend approval of Article 17- Mudge Way Street Acceptance. Ms. Fleischman seconded the motion.

The motion passed 5-0-0.

Mr. Moonan moved to recommend approval of Article 19- Proposed FY17 Capital Projects Plan. Mr. Rosenberg seconded the motion.

The motion passed 5-0-0.

Ms. Fleischman moved to recommend approval of Article 20- Community Preservation Budget- Fiscal Year 2017. Mr. Moonan seconded the motion.

The motion passed 5-0-0.

Mr. Reed explained that the Finance Committee suggested that Article 21- Expanded Local Transit Pilot Program be its own separate article rather than built into the Operating Budget. This would facilitate proposed funding for the two-year project.

Mr. Moonan moved to recommend approval of Article 21- Expanded Local Transit Pilot Program. Ms. Fleischman seconded the motion.

The motion passed 5-0-0.

Mr. Rosenberg moved that the Selectmen make a recommendation at Town Meeting for Article 22- Supplemental Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2016 and Articles of the 2015 Annual Town Meeting. Ms. Fedele seconded the motion.

The motion passed 5-0-0.

Ms. Fedele moved to recommend approval of Article 23- Salary Administration Plan Bylaw Amendment-Classification and Wage Schedule. Ms. Fleischman seconded the motion.

The motion passed 5-0-0.

Ms. Fleischman moved to recommend approval of Article 26- Salary Plan Additional Funding. Mr. Rosenberg seconded the motion.

The motion passed 5-0-0.

Mr. Moonan moved to recommend approval of Article 28- Supplemental Accrued Sick Leave Fund. Ms. Fleischman seconded the motion.

The motion passed 5-0-0.

Ms. Fleischman moved that the Selectmen make a recommendation at Town Meeting for Article 30- Free Cash. Ms. Fedele seconded the motion.

The motion passed 5-0-0.

16-193 Minutes

Regular Session Minutes of January 25, 2016

Mr. Moonan made a motion to approve the Regular Session Minutes of January 25, 2016 as amended. Ms. Fleischman seconded the motion.

The motion passed 5-0-0.

16-194 Town Manager's Report

Mr. Reed did not have anything further to report.

16-195 Open Discussion and Selectmen Liaison Reports

Ms. Fleischman stated that the Public Meeting for the Solar Project was cancelled because the State reached its net metering cap for projects of this nature and there were no more financial incentives available. Ms. Fleischman said she would discuss this in more depth with the Energy Task Force next week to look at other options available.

Mr. Rosenberg inquired how the Highway Operations Manager was doing in the new position. Mr. Reed stated that he was pleased with his performance thus far especially in light of the vacant Public Works Director position.

Ms. Fleischman also mentioned that the Safe Routes to School Public Hearing would be taking place on February 11th at the John Glenn Middle School.

Mr. Moonan made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Fleischman seconded the motion.

The motion passed 5-0-0.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.